

April 11, 2019

Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan,

We are writing to you on behalf of Kenilworth Preservation Group (KPG), Lakes & Parks Alliance of Minneapolis (LPA), Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA), Kenwood Neighborhood Organization and LRT Done Right.

We ask for your assistance in preserving the integrity of the Kenilworth Corridor green space by suspending the Met Councils plan to begin cutting down trees in the corridor in the upcoming weeks for SWLRT, until **full funding** from the FTA is absolutely certain.

Federal funding of SWLRT is highly uncertain. As of now, the Met Council has only received a commitment of 245 days of construction reimbursement from the FTA. The FTA has not even invited the Met Council to APPLY for a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA). The Met Council is a long way from receiving federal APPROVAL of a FFGA and faces many funding uncertainties.

Once we destroy this corridor between the Chain of Lakes, we cannot alter the consequences. It would be a terrible oversight of this administration to allow this park setting to be destroyed without 100% certainty that the light rail will indeed be funded/built. Please note that this is not simply a neighborhood request. According to the Met Council's own data, more than 600,000 people use and enjoy this corridor every year.

Although we understand the need to start the project, destroying full-grown trees that will take 25+ years to replace is gross negligence should the project be delayed or altered.

Hennepin County Chair Marion Green informed the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhoods that Hennepin County hired a lobbying group to convince the FTA to approve full funding. We have since learned they hired Cardinal Infrastructure at a cost of \$200,000.00.

Why would the State of Minnesota / Met Council destroy one of the most pristine areas of the region until they know for absolute certainty that full federal funding has been approved?

In addition, SWLRT still faces an active lawsuit in Federal Court and potential for another suit to be brought. There are many uncertainties in this corridor that are unresolved.

While we have been criticized for not supporting SWLRT, we have stood firm in our resolve that the route, along with co-location of freight rail and LRT, have been at the core of our debate, not the need for it.

We were promised that co-location would NOT happen in this corridor. Our burden is now extreme and the very park-like setting of this great city will be destroyed beyond repair.

We ask that you impose a moratorium on tree-cutting in the Kenilworth Corridor until the Met Council can show that it has received the FFGA for the federal governments share for the entire project, along with any/all remaining funding that is needed.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Stuart Chazin (Chair/Kenilworth Preservation Group)

David Lilly (Chair/Lakes and Parks Alliance of Minneapolis)

Mary Pattock (Chair/Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association)

Shawn Smith (Chair/Kenwood Neighborhood Organization)

Jeanette Colby (Founding Member, LRT Done Right)

Curt & Catherine Gunsbury (Board Member LPA)

George and Catherine Puzak (Board Member LPA)

Jim & Cindie Smart